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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : John Mantegna et al. Art Unit : 2155
Serial No. : 09/844,656 Examiner : Asad M. Nawaz
Filed : April 30, 2001
Title : AUTOMATIC MICROPHONE DETECTION

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Commissioner for Patents
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REPLY TO ACTION OF AUGUST 12, 2005

In reply to the final Office Action of August 12, 2005, applicant requests that all claims be allowed in view of the following remarks. Claims 1-3 are pending, with claims 1-3 being independent.

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Itakura ("An Audio Response Unit Based on Partial Autocorrelation," August 20, 1971) in view of Kim (U.S. Patent No. 6,594,363). Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-3 because neither Itakura nor Kim describe or suggest the subject matter of claims 1-3. For example, neither Itakura nor Kim describe or suggest a method for detecting whether or not a microphone is connected to a real-time audio communication system of a computer that includes determining whether the microphone is, or is not, properly connected to the real-time audio communication system based on the comparison of the values of the auto-correlation function coefficients with the predetermined values.

Independent claim 1 recites a method for detecting whether or not a microphone is connected to a real-time audio communication system of a computer. The method includes first recording an audio sample through the real-time audio communication system. The method includes filtering a DC component out of the audio sample and determining values of auto-correlation coefficients of the filtered audio sample. The method further includes comparing the values of the auto-correlation coefficients of the filtered audio sample with predetermined values. Finally, the method includes determining whether a microphone is properly connected to the real-time audio communication system based on the comparison of the values of the auto-correlation function coefficients with the predetermined values and determining whether the